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MEMORANDUM FOR THE STATE-WAR-NAVY COORDINATING COMMITTEE

SUBJECT: Probable Soviet and Soviet-Inspired Reactions to
SWNCC Proposals for India

REFERENCES: A. SWNCC Report, "NEED FOR FOREIGN ASSISTANCE - INDIA"
B. Memo for SWNCC from Director of Central Intelligence,
same subject, dated 24 July 1947

1. The SWNCC proposals to attain a politically and economically stable India, consistent with US objectives, include: (1) the conclusion of a consular convention, taxation agreement, trade agreement, and treaty of friendship, navigation and commerce with India and Pakistan; (2) continuation of US grain shipments to India at the present rate; (3) US support of Indian membership in UN organizations and support of action favorable to India by those organizations; (4) sale of American equipment, and technical aid; (5) an intensified US program of education and information designed to counteract anti-western tendencies in India; (6) in case of emergency, the sale of military equipment for use in the stabilization of responsible, non-Communist governments; and (7) support of an Export-Import Bank loan for the stimulation of Indo-US trade should an economic emergency arise. No special economic measures other than existing and normal channels of assistance are contemplated to achieve US objectives.

2. Soviet reaction to US activities in India will be a continuation of the current anti-US policy of the Kremlin. Soviet objectives in India are the promotion of continued unrest, elimination of all British influence, and eventual communization. The chief ally of the USSR is the Indian Communist Party, a small but highly disciplined and well integrated revolutionary organization. It can be expected to seek to enhance its influence by maintaining a status of civil unrest, continued anti-US and anti-British agitation, and covert sabotage of the local governments' efforts to establish a stable economic and political order.

3. The USSR will attempt to woo the new Indian governments, emphasizing its reputation as the friend and prophet of salvation for oppressed and dependent peoples. In this capacity, the Kremlin will attempt to aggravate the anti-western sentiments of the Indians, emphasizing the alleged threat to their independence from the US. US efforts to assist in the development of an independent and stable India through existing international organizations

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and economic channels may be countered by unilateral assistance from the USSR, carefully timed and manipulated to achieve maximum effect. The fanfare accompanying such assistance would overshadow its actual economic importance, the Soviet emphasizing the favorable conditions of their aid as contrasted to the economic imperialism inherent in assistance from other sources. Soviet assistance, however, would be of the token variety as the stabilizing effect of any comprehensive and effective aid would mitigate against the aspirations of the Indian Communists and the USSR.

4. Soviet propaganda, echoed by the Indian Communist Party, will continue its vehement denunciation of US and UK imperialism, and will champion "true" independence for India. The UK will be pictured as continuing its authority in India through the subterfuge of nominal independence. The US will be described as supporting the British with the eventual goal of replacing British domination. Any US education and information program designed to counteract anti-US tendencies will be vigorously attacked and countered by extensive Soviet operations of a similar nature. US sales of munitions to any Indian faction will be adversely propagandized out of proportion to its actual size or effect. The USSR may also covertly supply the opposition with arms and equipment in its efforts to promote Indian Communism.

5. While the Soviet Union cannot expect to achieve the communization of India at any early date, it will strive by all means at its disposal short of open conflict with the West to prevent Indian orientation to the West, to continue unrest and civil strife conducive to the growth of Communism, and to promote Soviet influence in Indian affairs.

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